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MAR 31 2004

**In the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Applicants: David A. Fell et al.  
Serial No.: 09/854,360  
Confirmation No: 1294  
Filed: May 11, 2001

Docket No.: 16,925  
Group: 3761  
Examiner: Kidwell, Michele M.  
Date: March 31, 2004

**OFFICIAL**

For: **ABSORBENT ARTICLE HAVING A MULTILAYER  
BLENDED CORE AND A METHOD OF FORMING**

**Response to Restriction Requirement Without Traverse**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

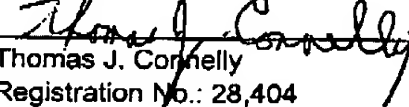
In response to the restriction requirement mailed March 9, 2004, the Examiner has indicated that the claims are directed to six (6) distinct species. The Examiner has also indicated that currently there is no generic claim. At this time, Applicants elect claim 1 for prosecution in the present application, which relates to **Species 1**. Claims 2 – 30 and 38 are withdrawn at this time. Claims 31 – 37, which relate to the method, have been previously withdrawn.

This election is made **without traverse**. Applicants specifically reserve the right to seek patent protection for non-elected subject matter by divisional application.

The undersigned may be reached at: (920) 721-2455

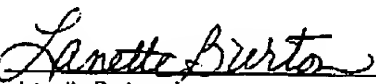
Respectfully submitted,

DAVID A. FELL ET AL.

By:   
Thomas J. Connelly  
Registration No.: 28,404

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE**

I, Lanette Burton, hereby certify that on March 31, 2004, this document is being transmitted via facsimile to the United States Patent & Trademark Office, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA to RightFax number (703) 872-9306.

By:   
Lanette Burton